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ACCOUNT of a most Horrid and Barbarous MURTHER and ROBBERY,

Committed on the Body of Captain Brown, *a Gentleman of Eight Hundred Pound a Year, near* Shrewsbury *in* Shropshire, *(who lately lived in* Soho-square *) by his own Tennant and Servant, and seven more Villains, cutting off his Head, putting it into a* Sack, *and burying it with the Body in a Hop-Field, in his* Scarlet Cloaths, *with the most Strange, wonderful, and miraculous discovery of the same, on* Tuesday *the* 22d. *of* March, 1694. *by the Apparition of the Gentlemans spirit to divers Persons of good Quality in the Countrey; and of the Noise of Drums and Trumpets beating Paints of War on the very spot of Ground where the Murthered Captain was buried; with the* Murtherers Confession, *and divers others strange Particulars.*

Licensed according to Order.

WHAT Dreadful Remembrances have we, of the Judgments of Almighty God, shew'd against Murtherers in a most remarkable manner, as divers of our Modern Chronicles do set forth, which is enough to deter the basest Person from the Commission of so horrid a Fact as Murther; yet it is daily seen how the Sin increases rather than abates: for how many Instances have we of Late of this Nature, both in City and Countrey, and none will take warning till they are involv'd and insnar'd in utter Ruine.

For the Hainousness of this Sin of Murther, I suppose none can be Ignorant, that it is of the deepest Die, a most crying Sin. This we may see in the first Act of this kind that ever was committed. Abel's Blood crieth from the Earth, and God tells Cain, Gen. 4. 10. And it is worth our Notice, what strange, and even miraculous Means it hath often pleased God to use for the discovery of this Sin, the very brute Creatures have many times been made Instruments of it; nay, often the extream Horrour of the Person's own Conscience hath made him betray himself; other times the Apparition of the Murdered Person, (as in the following Instance) from whence its evident that is is not any closeness used in the acting of this Sin, that can secure the Malefactor from the Vengeance of it.

I forsee there are abundance of Men, in whose Hands this Paper may come (and those as they think themselves, no mean Wit too) because forsooth, they have not been Eye-witnesses themselves will dread many of the following Passages, in the Discovery of the Murther, as Fabulous: All that I shall say to these Gentlemen is, if they dare believe nothing but what they themselves have seen; I am sure they dare not believe themselves to be Rational Creatures, and at the same time vouch it.

I know there are some men in the World so hardy and bold, as not only to deny Apparitions, Damons, and Spectres, but the very Being of Spirits; These I look upon as Men possessed with such an incurable Madness, as no Hellebor is sufficient to quit them of. Others who belive they are, yet think them so confined to their own Apartments, that they may not inter-meddle with Humane Affairs, at least not shew themselves to Men: There is, no doubt, variety of Impostures in the stairs of them, but to reject all such Appearances as Fabulous, is too severe a Reflection upon the Credit of the best Historians, both Antient and Modern. But to proceed to the Relation.

Captain *Brown* the unhappy Subject of this Narrative, was an honest generous, and worthy Gentleman of *Shropshire*, near *Shrewsbury*, had an House in *Soho-Square*, London, he was extreamly well beloved of the Gentlemen of the Countrey: His Lady and Relict is a very vertuous Person, of an Honourable Family, being sister to the present Lord C——. The Captain had one of his Tenants to wait upon him, when he went Abroad; while in the Countrey, a Fellow, whom he put much Confidence, and who was indebted to him 50*l.* for Rent, for which he only took his Bond, saying often in the hearing of many, that he would never trouble him for it, till he saw him able. In the *Christmas* Week last past, this Fellow understanding, that the Captain, his Master, was to receive fourscore Pounds in a place about Ten Miles from home, communicated the same to

to seven Countrey Labouring-fellows of the Neighbourhood, all as wicked as himself; These idle Persons consult, and confederate together, to Way-lay the Captain, at a place agreed on in the Road, as he was to pass Home, resolving there to Rob him of his Money and Life at the same time; but it so happen'd, that the Captain returning late in the Evening, and calling at a Friend's House, He, by their Perswasions, left his Money there for fear of a casual Robbery, not apprehending in the least, at the same time, the Treachery of the Servant that accompanied him. Now at the place these bloudy Assassinates fell on the Captain, (the Servant joyning with them) knokt him off his Horse, cut his Skull, cut off his Head, and put it into a Sack they had provided; after which they carryed him to a Hop Ground just by, where digging a Hole, they threw him in, Cloaths and all, and covered him with Earth. Having first rifled him of his Watch, Rings, &c. though they mist of the Sum of Money they sought for; with this booty, dividing their Booty, went every Man to his own Home. The next day the Captains Tenant-Servant went to the Captains House impudently, like *Solomon's* Whore *Wiping his Mouth, and saying he had done no ill.* But the Captains Lady seeing of him, asked him for his Master, who replyed, he thought he was come Home the other Night: However, great search having been made after the Captain, and he not returning, the Servant was Apprehended, and sent to *Shrewsbury* Prison, on suspition of his Murther. Soon after the Murther, the Spirit, or Apparition, in the plain Dress, Form and Shape of the Captain, appeared to two Gentlewomen of the Captain's Acquaintance, as they lay in Bed; he drew the Curtains, and looked on them with a smiling Countenance, and then walked to the Window, and opened the Casement; the Gentlewomen said, *Lord Captain, what make you here, you're very merry, sure you have been up a Drinking all Night*, but he retired without answering a Word; after which the Gentlewomen calling the Servant-Maid, she came up, to whom they demanded the Reason why she let the Captain up into their Room. But the Maid declared, that she neither saw, nor heard him, and that the doors of the House were shut.

Some days after the Captain appeared to an Acquaintance in the same Village, an ancient Gentleman that was sick of the Gout: Coming into the House, the Son of the Gentleman desir'd the Captain not to make a Noise, for that his Father was ill, and just in a slumber, the Captain went and looked on the Father, and then sat down with the Son, who talked to the Captain, but he made no reply, only smil'd, and then retir'd, or vanished. At the time of the Apparition, the two Gentlewomen, nor this young Man, knew any thing of the Captain's Murther, from *Christmas* till last *Thursday* was Seven-night, being the 22d. of *March*, it was not known what was become of the Captain; but on the *Thursday* the said two of the seven Rogues that assisted the Captain's Servant in the Murthering of him, were with six other labouring Men, working in the very same Hop-Garden where the Captain was buried; and on a sudden they heard the noise, or sound of Drums and Trumpets; upon which, thinking some Forces might be Marching by, they all run out to see them, but when they came, could see nothing, only heard the noise; upon which, returning to their Work, the noise encreased, and of a sudden, one of the Murderers said to the other, *These Drums are for the discovery of Captain* Brown's *Murther*; but the other reply'd with a frowning look, *Hold your Bawling you fool, you know not what you say*; but some other of the Company hearing of the Words, went out, and acquainted the next Justice, who was the County Coroner, of what he heard, who enjoyning them silence, and ordering a Guard near the place, came and heard the like noise, and then said to all the Fellows at work, *Certainly here must be some Murder or other extraordinary hapened hereabouts, that we thus hear this noise, and see nothing.* Upon which he ordered all the Fellows to dig, and thrusting in his Cane at many places, pushed at last in the very spot that the Captain lay buried, where Digging, one of the Captain's Legs, and piece of the Scarlet Cloak appearing, the two Fellows of the Company, that were two of the Captain's Murtherers, took their Heels and ran for it, but were soon stopt, and committed to Shrewsbury Goal, where the Captain's Man was before, who as soon as ever he saw two of his Companions come, and that his Captain's Body was found, made a large Confession of the whole Murther; upon which the other five were immediatly apprehended, and are all now in Goal, in order to receive their just Punishment for so horrid and barbarous a Murther.

12 A. 1805 MUSEUM

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